

## TELEGRAPHERS REMEMBER NO LEAK MESSAGE

One Operator Tells Probers E. F. Hutton Suggested Limitations of Memory.

RETURN HERE TOMORROW

Inquiry Will Be Resumed in Capital—Committee Seeks New Trail.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—W. Frank Packard, a telegrapher who works the San Francisco-Los Angeles wire of E. F. Hutton & Co., brokers, testified before the leak investigation committee at the customs house today, that Edward F. Hutton, head of the firm, had gone into the operators' room of the house this morning and suggested that no telegraph operator could remember receiving or sending messages as far back as December 20.

This was reluctantly admitted by Packard to Sherman L. Whipple, counsel for the committee, after the witness had contended that no telegrapher really could remember what had passed through his hands that long ago.

Frank M. Dick, office manager of E. F. Hutton & Co., followed Packard on the stand.

Not Impressed by Message. Dick testified that his position in the firm of Hutton & Co. was that of a statistician, attending to customers, and giving them advice on the market. He said that he had been telling people for four or five days before December 20 that the market was too heavy, and he advised them to sell.

"If you had known on December 15 of President Wilson's message," queried Mr. Whipple, "what would you have done—what advice would you have given to customers?"

"Oh," replied the witness, "I do not think it would have impressed me very much."

Baruch's Statement Cited. "Do you mean," Counsel Whipple queried, "that you attach no importance to such a message as that?"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you know that Mr. Baruch said if he had known of it he would have become many times a millionaire?"

"I read it."

Dick explained he believed something bigger was necessary to shock the public mind.

Corroborates Becker. Corroborating the testimony of Joseph M. Becker, John M. Hummel, an operator in the office of E. F. Hutton & Co., told the House Leak Committee today he had received no such messages as that spoken of by Francis A. Connelly, Washington correspondent of Hutton & Co. Hummel operates the Hutton south wire, which runs into the Connolly office.

Hummel said he, undoubtedly, would have remembered it if a message of such great importance had been sent. He stated positively when pressed as to the certainty of his memory, that he had not seen such a message.

Message Not Telegraphed. Following this testimony, Counsel Whipple expressed the belief that it had apparently been proven the message had not been telegraphed. It contains an extraordinary condemnation of the President's peace manifesto.

Hummel declared that his wire had not been used for telephoning during the month of December.

GROUNDHOG SEES SHADOW

Six Weeks More of Bad Weather Announced by Prophets.

Six weeks of bad weather are in prospect for Washington if any faith is to be placed in the groundhog's prophecy.

Shortly after sunrise today aerotomys monax by which the groundhog is known in highbrow circles, ventured out of his hole. He had taken but a few steps from his threshold before the sun threw his shadow on the frozen ground.

With a quick dart the groundhog retreated to his hole and began making preparations for a six weeks' stay there.

The accuracy of the groundhog's prophecy is a favorite topic of discussion among weatherologists, goosebone prophets and others who concern themselves about isothermic conditions.

At all events, the groundhog today predicted six weeks of rain, snow, sleet, ice, wind and general misbehavior by the elements.

U-BOAT STOPS DANES

Captain Reports Getting Pass From German Commander.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The Danish motor ship Chilli, which arrived last night from Copenhagen and Stornoway, reports that on January 17, in latitude 60.30, longitude 0.30, she sighted a German submarine about two miles distant on the port beam.

As the Chilli steamed along the submarine kept abreast and set some signals, which could not be distinguished. Then she fired a shot, which struck the water within thirty feet of the bridge.

The Chilli stopped, and Capt. Fredrick Grus went in his boat with his papers to the submarine. After examination he received a pass signed "Rittenfeld Kapitän," and proceeded. The submarine was of about 1,000 tons and had two guns.

## POINDEXTER URGES SUBMARINE FLEET

Wants Navy to Have 200 U-Boats of Modern Type.

With the German crisis acute, Senator Poindexter of Washington, today proposed a big submarine fleet for the United States.

He introduced a measure which he will urge as an amendment to the naval bill, and an addition to the regular program of construction for eighty coast submarines and twenty fleet submarines.

"The Pacific coast is in a wholly unprotected condition," he said. "It would be economy to construct these submarines. The Government would have about 200 serviceable undersea boats if these were constructed, and the others built which are authorized. That is a small number in comparison with the numbers possessed by other countries of the world."

He declared the country could not afford to omit construction of these undersea vessels.

## SURVIVORS OF FIRE ENTOMBED IN ICE

Voices Heard in Ruins of Tenement Wrecked by Gas Explosion.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—Firemen digging among the ice-covered ruins of a West Side tenement, destroyed by a gas explosion and fire, today heard voices calling for help, shortly before noon.

At noon the rescuers were within a few feet of an imprisoned woman.

"For God's sake get me out," was all she could say.

Beside the woman, who is about thirty years old, rescuers could see the body of a man. He was believed to be dead. The woman, barely able to mumble, can live but a short time unless released.

An emergency call was sent to outlying stations for more men to assist in clearing away the debris.

The death list is estimated as high as forty.

Two thousand persons, half naked and barefooted, were driven from their homes into the streets, with temperatures 4 degrees below zero, when buildings for several squares were rocked by the explosion.

Building Demolished. Following the explosion, which came with such force that the building was completely demolished, a yawning crevasse was torn open in the street. Out of the fissure leaped a blue flame, which by the time firemen arrived had spread to the wreckage and transformed the debris into a roaring inferno. Rescue of men, women and children, and recovery of bodies was practically impossible.

Emergency Alarms. Immediately after the explosion, emergency alarms were sent to all fire stations in the city and prompt arrival of fire-fighting apparatus saved many adjoining tenements.

With clothing coated with ice, firemen, policemen and volunteers risked their lives, carrying women and children from the wrecked and adjoining flats. Several firemen, badly frozen, were taken to hospitals with those they had rescued.

Twelve families made their home in the tenement. Each family had a number of roomers, so it has been impossible to secure an accurate estimate of the number of persons living in the building.

Estimates Reach Fifty. The exact death list probably never will be learned, police say. Some police estimates run as high as fifty.

There were twenty-six small children in the tenement. All were under ten years of age. Some of those who escaped were thrown from windows by frenzied parents.

Clement S. Davis, a switchman, on his way home from work, passed the building shortly after the explosion occurred. Three small children were tossed into his arms from a second-story window. A fourth struck him on the head, rendering him unconscious. He was taken to a hospital.

Three small children, in night clothes, were seen to crawl out of a basement window soon after firemen arrived. How they escaped is a mystery.

STOCK MARKET STEADIES

Shrinkage of \$100,000,000.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—A flood of sending, generally in small lots from business men and small speculators in all parts of the country, continued on the stock exchange today.

Bargain hunters who believed the bottom had been reached, shorts who bought to cover and take profits from previous sales and conservative investors bought, and the market steadied.

The cotton exchange also opened steady, after the board of managers had met and decided to keep the exchange open.

Many inquiries had been received, following yesterday's \$25 a bale break, regarding the advisability of closing the exchange.

In Wall Street today, profit-taking by Jesse L. Livermore, Bernard Baruch and Joseph J. Manning, Ohio house of representatives today unanimously adopted a resolution addressed to President Wilson, declaring that it viewed with alarm the present crisis, and calling upon every citizen of the United States "to stand behind the President as one man."

## EDITOR BARES PAST TO BLOCK BLACKMAILERS

Philip F. Franklin, of Gaithersburg, Saves Boys Accused of Mythical Robbery.

SAYS HE GAVE UP \$1,100

Manufactured Robbery Story to Stop Demands of Former Fellow-Convicts.

"I have been hounded for seven long years by convicts who served with me in the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, and who have blackmailed me for more than \$1,100 in that time. I have decided to bare my life to the world and take the consequences from the blackmailers and society at large."

Thus spoke Philip F. Franklin, editor of a newspaper in Gaithersburg, Md., to a Times reporter today.

Franklin's acquaintances in Maryland first learned of the dark chapter in his life yesterday, when he told a judge in the police court at Rockville that he had manufactured a story of having been robbed of \$800, so as to make the alleged blackmailers believe he had no money with which to meet their demands.

Saved Three Boys. The editor told his remarkable and startling story of prison life to save three boys who were on trial for the mythical theft. The boys were freed after the court had recovered from the shock caused by the editor's story.

Franklin is editor of the Gaithersburg Journal, having purchased that paper several months ago. He made his home at Gaithersburg with his wife and son. No one knew him when he first came to the town, but he made many friends, and was respected.

Strangers Enter Office. Strangers were seen to enter his office, but either attracted no particular attention or when they did the editor explained they were "friends from down the country."

Today Franklin said these visitors were men with whom he served four years in Eastern State Penitentiary. They came, he said, to extort money from him for silence as to the hidden chapter in his life. They succeeded in getting \$1,100 from him.

Lives in Uprightness. "It would add nothing to the story for me to tell the world the nature of the crime for which I served my term," said the editor today. "I served four years for a crime for which I was convicted when I was thirty-one years old. I am now forty-eight."

"Since my liberation I have led an upright, righteous life and tried to be a Christian. I have been honorable and honest, and shall always regret the error of my young life."

"Determined to redeem myself and reform my ways, I went to Wilmington."

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BATTERY B OFF TODAY

District Artillerymen to Start Home This Afternoon.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 2.—Battery B, District of Columbia Field Artillery, will start home from the Arizona border today, according to announcement at department headquarters.

A special train will carry the artillerymen from Douglas back to Washington by a mustered out of the Federal service after their long turn of duty on the border.

With horses to be watered and exercised along the way, several days will be required for the trip.

At Eagle Pass the Fifth Maryland Infantry is busy with plans for home-going. The organization is under orders to entrain and leave for Baltimore next Monday.

Although today is the coldest San Antonio has experienced in the winter season, the Third District of Columbia Infantry went on a practice march, covering about eight miles.

BIGGER GUARD AT CANAL

Army Acts to Thwart Any Plots at Panama.

Because of the possibilities of danger from the present international situation, army officials have taken steps for extra precautions at the Panama Canal. It was learned today.

Stronger watches have been placed over the locks "since Tuesday," lest there be some attempt to damage them, and thus make the whole canal system useless.

Special care is being taken throughout the country to guard against any plotting, and Secret Service men are keeping tabs on any possible conspiracies.

OHIOANS BACK PRESIDENT

Legislators Call on U. S. to Stand Behind Him in Crisis.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 2.—The Ohio house of representatives today unanimously adopted a resolution addressed to President Wilson, declaring that it viewed with alarm the present crisis, and calling upon every citizen of the United States "to stand behind the President as one man."

## AMERICAN LINER NEARS DEATH ZONE WITH HOST OF NOTABLES ON BOARD; U. S. AWAITS GERARD'S EXPLANATION

Many Big Ships With Americans Aboard in or Near Blockade District.

NOTABLES ARE IN PERIL

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid and Captain Amundsen Among Passengers on Philadelphia.

BALTIC SOON IN WAR AREA

White Star Liner Left New York for Liverpool Last Monday With 49 in Cabin.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The American liner Philadelphia, bound for Liverpool with many Americans aboard, is nearing the barred zone of the waters about England today.

A message received from Captain Candy by the American line officers here today reported the Philadelphia 219 miles west of Flatnet at noon yesterday.

She was making 16½ knots an hour, despite a broken crank shaft in her port engine. She is proceeding under power of the starboard engine.

Captain Candy reported "all well."

Among those on board the Philadelphia are Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, the Misses Helen and Ethel Crocker, of San Francisco, Cal.; Ogden Mills, George Gordon Moore, Lieut. John M. Eager, U. S. A., and Capt. Rosal Amundsen, Arctic explorer.

The Finland in Danger. The Finland, of the same line, also from this port for Liverpool, is due to arrive there on Sunday, and also is in the danger zone. She has on board 114 cabin passengers, of whom forty-six are American citizens.

The Kronland, of this line, steamed from Liverpool for this port on Wednesday with 191 passengers. The exact number of Americans among them is not known.

Another vessel on board which are Americans is the big Baltic, of the White Star line, which steamed from this port Monday for Liverpool with forty-nine cabin passengers. She is due in Liverpool next Wednesday and, of course, will have to traverse the danger space long after the time limit is reached.

Big Steamships in Danger. The Celtic, of the White Star line; the Minnehaha, of the Atlantic Transport line; and the Orforda, of the Cunard line, all of them bound from here to Liverpool, are in danger.

The Touraine, of the French line, which steamed for Bordeaux late last Sunday night, is still another steamship to brave the perils of the submarine danger, and the Touraine were many opera singers, and a large proportion of her passengers were United States citizens.

U. S. LINER DELAYS TRIP

St. Louis Will Not Leave for Liverpool Tomorrow.

Officials of the American Line have advised the State Department that the steamship St. Louis, scheduled to leave New York tomorrow for Liverpool, will not sail.

She will be held in port pending a definite determination by President Wilson of his course toward Germany respecting the German submarine blockade. Subsequently, it was indicated, the company will rest its decision on advice from the Government at Washington.

The decision of the company to cancel the sailing of the St. Louis was not based on the advice of the State Department. In view of the fact that the President, at the time the company officials made inquiry, late yesterday afternoon, had not finally determined his course, the State Department declined to advise.

Relief in Port. At the same time considerable relief was felt in Administration circles when the company's decision became known. It was realized that in the sailing of the St. Louis tomorrow lay the possibility of events the effects of which would be to sweep away any opportunity that may perhaps remain for Germany to modify her decree.

POLICE STOP ELOPEMENT

Youthful Couple Came to Capital to Be Wedded.

The elopement of Miss Virginia Robertson, seventeen years old, of Craigville, Va., came to a sad ending here yesterday, when Deputy Sheriff W. L. Palmer took her back to her father.

The youthful bride-to-be had been left Craigville Wednesday morning with Wallace Glott, eighteen years of age. But later Robertson telephoned the Sheriff, and asked him to stop the wedding.

When Virginia and Wallace stepped from the train at Union Station Detective Harry Warren greeted them. They were driven to police headquarters. There the young prospective husband was told he could go, but his sweetheart must remain.

Virginia spent the night at the House of Detention, and yesterday she returned home, still "Miss Virginia Robertson." Sheriff Palmer said he understood that her parents were not opposed to the marriage, but wanted her to have her wedding at home.

## U. S. BEGINS INVESTIGATION INTO SCUTTling OF GERMAN VESSEL

Secret Service Operators Put to Work on Strange Loss of Lieberfels—Crew May Be Arrested.

United States Secret Service operators, acting under direct instructions of the State Department, have been put to work to discover whether the sinking of the German freighter Lieberfels in Charleston, (S. C.) harbor yesterday by members of her crew was part of an organized German plot to sink all German merchantmen in American ports.

It was expected that members of the crew of the Lieberfels might be taken into custody some time today pending further inquiries. This, it was explained, could be done under strict laws providing for the protection of navigation.

Might Be Serious. In view of the large number of German liners that have been tied up since the outbreak of the war at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and other ports along the Atlantic coast, it is realized that

If the incident at Charleston is part of a general plot the consequences to the United States might be extremely serious.

The action Wednesday night of Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port of New York, in directing his neutrality officers to board and inspect all the German liners tied up in New York harbor was based on more or less definite intimations that these ships might be taken out and sunk in the channel of New York Bay under cover of the dense fog that hung over the harbor that night. Officials here refuse, however, to confirm this.

Official Reports. Official reports on the Charleston incident have been received both at the Treasury Department, through the customs officers at Charleston, and the Navy Department, from the commandant of the Charleston navy

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## DEVIL IS NO FOOL, SAYS GYPSY SMITH

Evangelist Pays Respects to Wily foe in Tabernacle Sermon.

That the Devil is no fool, and that to combat him successfully one must arm oneself with the grace of God was the theme of Gypsy Smith, Jr., in his sermon last night at the tabernacle on Sixteenth and V streets.

A congregation which comfortably filled the big structure greeted the evangelist's words with serious attention but little demonstration of emotion.

This sermon on "The Wiles of the Devil, or the Diabolical Deeds" has been heralded as one of Gypsy's favorites, one in which he reaches the apex of his sometimes pyrotechnical oratory. But last night's effort lasted only a little more than thirty minutes and at no time generated a great deal of heat.

The only applause of the evening came with his attack on "disarrangement," one of the Diabolical Deeds.

Oyster Should Be Insignia. "I call it disarrangement," he thundered, "when a church gives a supper to buy a new carpet. I know of a church up North which should have a stained glass window with an oyster in it. There are lots of churches which should say special prayers for the oyster. For the oyster has built up more churches than any other thing."

"I wouldn't insult Jesus Christ by having to sit down to a supper before giving him 50 cents. Listen! It's the same" (Continued on Eighth Page.)

NO TRANSPORTATION PLANS

U. S. Has Made No Arrangements to Bring Americans Home.

Means of providing for Americans in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, who may wish to return home because of threatened international trouble, had not been furnished up to today.

The State Department, however, has considered in a broad general way what steps it will take if many Americans become panicky and want to hasten home.

The chief of these arrangements would be for Americans in Germany, but as for those in the rest of Europe it seems likely that there would be comparatively few needing transportation.

The whole situation about Americans abroad is contingent on President Wilson's course toward Germany. Until that is decided the State Department probably will take no action.

WOULD CHANGE EMBLEM

Clubwomen Want Laurel Selected as National Flower.

Representative of the Federation of Women's Club want the House Library Committee to make the mountain laurel the national flower to replace "the golden rod," because the golden rod is a weed, responsible for hay fever, and so cannot be taken as a dignified emblem, although it is generally accepted as such.

Mrs. Mary C. Lockwood, chaplain general of the D. A. R., was one of the speakers at a committee hearing today.

ADD 100,000 TO FRENCH ARMY.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—"L'Intransigeant" says probably 100,000 men will be added to the army as a result of the re-examination of 350,000 men who had been exempted for various reasons.

## Action on U-Boat Mepace Withheld Until Note Is Fully Explained.

CELEBRITIES ARE IN PERIL

But Officials Generally Think Original Interpretation Was Correct.

BERNSTORFF READY TO GO

Prepared to Leave at Once If He Is Handed His Passports by U. S.

Action by President Wilson in answer to Germany's new submarine blockade decree awaits the official interpretation to be placed on the term "unrestricted warfare" used in the German note.

Ambassador Gerard at Berlin has already been asked to get from the German foreign office just what is meant.

Officials have assumed, just as the American public has assumed, that it means a return to the same ruthlessness under which merchant vessels, passenger as well as freight, entering the war zone, would be sunk without warning.

Must Be Absolutely Sure. Officials called attention today, however, to the fact that this is not specifically stated in the German communication. While this assumption would seem to be justified it is realized that the President must absolutely be sure of his ground before taking the serious step of forcing a break.

Gerard's reply to the inquiry is expected to reach Washington at any time. If it justifies the fear of the Administration, it is taken for granted that the President will act at once, recalling Gerard from Berlin and handing Count von Bernstorff his passports.

May Mean More Protest.

If, on the other hand, the official German interpretation denies that ships are to be sunk without warning, it is regarded as entirely possible that the controversy may swing around to a protest by this Government on the ground that the blockade, proclaimed cannot be recognized as legal.

At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the President will meet with his Cabinet. Only the event that a reply is received from Gerard in the meantime is there any likelihood, it is believed, that any definite announcement will be forthcoming from the meeting.

Conference With Stone.

Senator William J. Stone, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was due to arrive in Washington shortly before the Cabinet meeting. It was expected that he would confer with the President sometime during the afternoon with a view to ascertaining what action, if any, the President might want from Congress.

While the critical character of the situation cannot be too earnestly emphasized, it should be as emphatically pointed out that no formal communication has yet been sent to Germany. No definite and final step has yet been taken. There have been no ultimatums.

No Crystallization.

At noon today the situation had not crystallized so definitely that it could be stated unqualifiedly that there will be a severance of diplomatic relations.

The inquiry to Gerard is understood to have been sent either late Tuesday night, or early yesterday morning. There is also reason to believe that a formal note to Germany was prepared yesterday, but its sending was halted by the President because the expected reply from Gerard to the informal inquiries had not yet been received.

Gave No Interpretation.

On definite authority it was learned today that when Count von Bernstorff presented the formal communication of his government to Secretary Lansing Wednesday night, he received no interpretation of what the German note precisely meant concerning the methods to be employed by the submarines.

Friends of Count von Bernstorff declare that he is entirely prepared to accept his passports and leave Germany tonight, after the receipt of the German note, or early yesterday morning. There is also reason to believe that a formal note to Germany was prepared yesterday, but its sending was halted by the President because the expected reply from Gerard to the informal inquiries had not yet been received.

No Confirmation.

Neither at the State Department nor at the Austrian embassy could any confirmation be obtained for the press reports from Berlin that Austria-Hungary has dispatched to the United States a note similar to that sent by Germany.

Count Tarnowski, the new Austrian ambassador, arrived in Washington last night. He was unable to throw any light on the situation, though he